

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 298

By Littleton

A RESOLUTION to honor Jonah and Emory Marlin for their courageous battle against Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those children who, although combating a life-threatening medical conditions, exhibit courage and fortitude far beyond their years, serving as an inspiration to their friends, family, and community; and

WHEREAS, Jonah and Emory Marlin, ages eight and six respectively, are two such estimable children who have been diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy; and

WHEREAS, this rare degenerative condition, affecting one in every 3,000-3,500 boys born each year, involves a loss of dystrophin, a protein that allows the body to repair tears and wear in the muscles; and

WHEREAS, the illness begins to display itself as a weakness in the arms and legs, but eventually progresses to affect the body's most important muscle, the heart; and

WHEREAS, possessing indomitable character, the boys have persevered through the progression of the disease, treasuring each precious moment with their family and friends and appreciating the simple pleasures in life; and

WHEREAS, the boys' parents, Terry and Sonya Marlin, state that their children's illnesses have given the family a new perspective on life; they have found reasons to live, believing that there is no reason to put off to tomorrow what you can do today; and

WHEREAS, the Marlin's decided to take their battle a step further, by creating the Fighting Duchenne Foundation, which is in the process of raising capital to fund a research department at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt; and

WHEREAS, it is the hope of the foundation, and all its supporters, that through intensive research, a cure can be found for Duchenne muscular dystrophy; and

WHEREAS, Jonah and Emory have served as an inspiration to their parents and all those who know them; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Jonah and Emory Marlin, praise them for their uplifting spirit, and commend their strong showing of bravery and fortitude at such young ages; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Jonah and Emory Marlin for their amazing personal strength and courage in their fight against Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.